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➤BOOKS & NOTICES.◀

THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE: LEVITICUS, NUMBERS AND DEUTERONOMY.*

No one can for a moment doubt the ability of Dr. Parker as a forcible presenter of religious truth. In attractive arrangement and practical application he has few superiors. These volumes furnish us a series of expository sermons full of the most interesting material. Truth, and that often the most vivid, is found in passages which, to the ordinary reader, have little or no meaning. We say "found in;" perhaps "is connected with" would be more accurate. As a series of sermons, nothing could be more interesting; as an aid to the understanding of the Bible itself, nothing could be less satisfactory. The truths taught are the most important; and while they are, perhaps, suggested by the passage which serves as a starting-point, they cannot be said to be derived from that passage. The reader of these sermons will gain no proper idea of that part of the Bible covered by them. They belong to that class of expository sermons which, however deep in respect to the truth inculcated, are exclusively of the surface so far as concerns the exposition of Scripture.

The pity is that a man who could have done such a magnificent thing in the line of Scripture-exposition, did not do it. The work has no critical value whatever. Yet this is a characteristic which every book written on the Bible, however popular its aim, should possess. The work is to be completed in twenty-five volumes.

ANCIENT CITIES FROM THE DAWN TO THE DAYLIGHT.†

The cities described are fourteen: Ur, Nineveh, Babylon, Memphis, Alexandria, Petra, Damascus, Tyre, Athens, Rome, Samaria, Susa, Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem. In connection with each city there are gathered details of archæology and history which present in a brief way the characteristics of that city. The author very modestly indicates his purpose: "I have neither hoped nor endeavored to do more than awaken in those whose attention has not been turned toward the subjects brought before them in these pages, an interest which may move them to seek ampler information from those who are competent to give it." In short, crisp sentences the results of modern investigation are given; and it is very difficult to see how one who reads, e. g., the chapters on Ur, Tyre and Samaria, can fail to become so interested as to be led to a more minute investigation of the subject.

* THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE. Discourses upon Holy Scripture, by Joseph Parker, D. D. Vol. III., Leviticus—Numbers xxvi.; Vol. IV., Numbers (continued), Deuteronomy. 8vo, pp. 360, 411. New York: *Funk & Wagnalls*. Price: Each vol. \$1.50

† ANCIENT CITIES FROM THE DAWN TO THE DAYLIGHT. By William Burnet Wright, Pastor of the Berkely Street church, Boston. Boston: *Houghton, Mifflin & Co.* 1887. 8vo, pp. 291.